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Board of Registration in Pharmacy

Policy 2022-03: Unfilled Prescriptions

This policy outlines procedures for pharmacies to send and receive certain unfilled prescriptions for initial filling.

I. Unfilled Original Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances (“EPCS”) in Schedules II – V

On a one-time basis, unfilled EPCS for Schedules II – V may either be:

1. Verbally transferred with a printout of the original EPCS information faxed to the receiving pharmacy; or
2. Electronically transmitted from one pharmacy to another without any alteration of the prescription contents.

In each scenario, the transfer requirements of 21 CFR § 1306.25 must be followed (except for the prescription number). In lieu of the original dispensing date, utilize the date of issuance of the original prescription. After the initial fill, any authorized refills may be transferred in accordance with Drug Enforcement Agency (“DEA”) requirements.

II. Unfilled Paper, Fax, or Oral Prescriptions for Controlled Substances in Schedules II – V

The DEA does not permit the transfer of any original unfilled paper, fax, or oral prescription for federally controlled substances. Entering such prescriptions into an electronic database does not transform them into EPCS. They remain subject to all the regulations applicable to paper, fax, and oral prescriptions.

III. Unfilled Electronic, Paper, Fax, or Oral Prescriptions for Controlled Substances in Schedule VI

Unfilled electronic, paper, fax, and oral Schedule VI prescriptions may either be electronically transmitted or transferred to another pharmacy in accordance with 247 CMR 9.00.

Supersedes Policy 2019-04

Please direct any questions to: Pharmacy.Admin@mass.gov